

OPTIMIZATION OF OPERATIONS INVOLVED IN ASSUMING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOW ACTIVITY WASTES IN FRANCE

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ABSTRACT

In addition to the basic nuclear installations generating the largest amounts of radioactive wastes as far as both volumes and activities are concerned, many smaller producers of such wastes also exist (university - hospitals establishments, research centers,...) presenting the following characteristics :

- high degree of geographical dispersion,
- generation of small quantities of wastes that have to be collected periodically,
- generation of wastes of very varied natures (physicochemical properties and chemical and biological risks associated with radioactive risks),

All the expenses involved in assuming responsibility for these wastes have been analyzed in detail in order to define and dominate the problems likely to occur.

Different sources of expense having led to the adopting of special technological or methodological solutions are analyzed :

- accounting for dangerous materials and the management involved in every thing from assuming responsibility to invoicing clients (our choice : computerized management),
- packaging dangerous materials and pre-storage prior to controlled disposal (our choice : standardization),
- collecting radioactive waste packages by road vehicles (our choice : specialization).

The operational results obtained from both the safety and financial points of view demonstrate that the choices made have led to an efficient optimization of all operations involved in assuming responsibility.